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National Council of Jewish Women  
Greater Detroit Section

STATE REPRESENTATIVE PAUL CONDINO  
CHAIR, HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
May 9, 2007  
Re: HB 4259 – SECOND PARENT ADOPTION

Fern Ettinger and Florence Herrmann are submitting our testimony this morning on behalf of National Council of Jewish Women. We are a volunteer organization of 90,000 members that has been at the forefront of social change for over a century. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW courageously takes a progressive stance on issues such as child welfare and women's rights.

We support HB 4259, which is a legal procedure that allows a same-sex parent to adopt her or his partner's biological or adoptive child without terminating the first parent's legal status as a parent.

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) strongly supports second parent adoption since it will ensure children have the financial, legal, and emotional security of two parents. It also ensures that both parents are financially responsible for their children in the event of death or separation of the parents.

Passage of HB 4259 will save Michigan money. In January 2006, Michigan's monthly bill for caring for the 4,000 plus children who are waiting to be adopted was \$7.215 million. Allowing two unmarried parents to adopt jointly would expand the number of permanent homes available, decreasing the cost to the state and the number of children waiting to be adopted.

National Council of Jewish Women urges you to support passage of this bill.

Thank you.

Fern Ettinger and Florence Herrmann  
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Chairs, State Public Affairs  
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